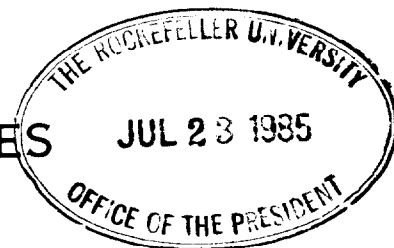


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UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE



OUR REFERENCE CB/gdv.

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12th July, 1985.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
President,
The Rockefeller University,
1230 York Avenue,
New York, New York 10021,
U. S. A.

Dear Joshua,

Greetings from Trinidad. I thought of you today as I was making preparation for my next Update in medicine when Howard Temin will be my feature speaker. My interest in Howard stems from the fact that since we last saw each other, I have had an increasing interest in virologic diseases arising from my recognition of Human T-cell Leukaemia/Lymphoma virus-associated diseases here in Trinidad. I have enclosed a reprint of one of my latest papers on this topic.

You will observe that in this cosmopolitan island, all the cases so far have been found in Blacks. In fact, since that publication, I now have some 24 cases of HTLV-I diseases and 45 cases of HTLV-III diseases (AIDS). Again all in Blacks.

It appears to me that this may be of some significance in that Blacks here may be more susceptible to these diseases and what may be even more important, the Asian population here is possibly relatively immune to the deleterious effects of these two viruses as I did have many Indians who have antibodies to the viruses but are not "coming down" with the diseases.

In this respect, I believe that I should investigate the possibility of genetic susceptibility to these viruses and their association with HLA.

In accordance with this, I thought that it may be worthwhile to do HLA profiles on lymphocytes of the Asian and negro population here. It would seem also that it may be interesting to observe the microscopic behaviour of these various lymphocytes to experimental infections with the two viruses.

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CB/gdv.

12th July, 1985.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

I would appreciate your opinion on these thoughts and whether Rockefeller could assist me in these studies.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

COURTENAY BARTHOLOMEW
Professor of Medicine

encl: